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where the whole power is lodged in the hands of the multitude, they may endanger the organization of society itself by their insidious action, before any general alarm is excited. The revolution of February certainly took the upper and middling classes in France by surprise ; and they soon found that even their great numerical superiority afforded them little protection against the exasperated populace. It is unsafe even in America to allow the doctrines of the socialists to be preached to the people without supplying an antidote to the poison. The *flour riot*, which took place in New York some twelve years ago, and the Anti-rent war, which more recently disgraced that State, were significant warnings. The great truths of political economy and civil polity ought to be explained to the people with some higher purpose than the hope of affecting the party politics of the hour. The educated and reflecting portion of our community ought not to wait, as the members of the French Academy did, till they are reminded, by the thunder of the cannon directed against the barricades, and by the earnest appeal of the constituted authorities of the State, that they also have a work to do for the preservation of society and the interests of truth.

ART. II. — *A Second Visit to the United States of North America.* By SIR CHARLES LYELL, F. R. S., President of the Geological Society of London, &c. New York : Harpers. 1849. 2 vols. 12mo.

SIR CHARLES LYELL is a shrewd and thoughtful observer, whose grave and unimpassioned comments on what he saw and heard in America are likely to be equally entertaining and instructive to readers on both sides of the ocean. His book is a very amusing *mélange* of observations on geology and men and manners in the United States ; he speculates with about equal success on the various formations of rock and the different strata of society, taking rather a deeper interest, we suspect, in the former than the latter, but expatiating upon both in a very sensible and judicious manner, and

always choosing to examine and form his opinions for himself. He is a sturdy Englishman at heart, and judges of things quite involuntarily from an English point of view ; but he has wandered about the world so long, and seen so many varieties of human nature, that he has worn off most of the knobs and sharp corners of his Anglican peculiarities, and writes at times almost like a cosmopolite. If he has any weakness, it is upon the subject of old fossil bones and shells, of which he is so fond that he cannot help thinking well of the people who live in the districts where they abound. The sight of them invariably puts him into good humor ; he rubs his hands, and the country about him forthwith assumes a smiling aspect ; the people and the institutions appear very well, and really seem to be admirably adapted to each other. The truth is, we believe, that his observations on the state of society are inserted only by way of condiment to his geological pudding, in order to make it palatable to a larger portion of the public.

Seriously, his ardent devotion to science actually renders him more impartial and tolerant in his estimate of the American character. His chief attention being given to another object, he has no theories to propound or defend in relation to the moral or social peculiarities of our countrymen, but talks about them incidentally and coolly, thus faithfully preserving the impressions of the moment. Geology, on the other hand, is his favorite study, and has long occupied his thoughts, so that he comes to the examination of the geological phenomena of our continent with his mind full of prepossessions. He finds everywhere striking evidence of the presence in former times of glaciers and icebergs, of the alternate elevation and subsidence of the surface of the earth, and of the enormous number of years which have passed since the deposition of the latest strata of rock. He is a leader of what Mr. Whewell calls the *uniformitarian* school of geologists, in opposition to the *cataclysmal* sect ; that is, he maintains that the former changes of the earth belong to one uninterrupted series of physical events, governed by the ordinary causes which we witness even now in constant operation, and he argues stoutly against the necessity of supposing that the regular order of nature was ever broken by great convulsions, or that there were epochs of destruction and renovation in the history of the earth's crust, followed by long periods of repose.

In his geological observations, he never loses sight of this competition of two opposite theories; the effect thus produced — an involuntary one, it is true — upon the completeness and impartiality of these observations, is like the bias under which he would have labored in his notices of American people and American institutions, if he had come hither with a fixed belief that a monarchical form of government was decidedly the best, and that republicanism could produce nothing but evil. It would seem, then, that he is the best observer who knows the least, or cares the least, about the objects observed; and this is true so far as freedom from prejudice is concerned; he is certainly the most impartial witness. Now, as a travelling John Bull is more apt to err from prejudice than from all other causes put together, we are inclined to place Mr. Lyell at the very head of his class; he is worth a dozen Halls and Hamiltons, and a score of Trollopes and Martineaus.

His passion for geology was a signal advantage for him as a general observer in another respect. It carried him off from the great routes for travellers, and away from large cities, into remote districts and obscure villages, where he became acquainted with all classes of the population. Accustomed to hard fare and still harder lodgings from the many similar excursions which he had made in Europe, he submitted with invincible good humor to the various privations and annoyances which he had reason to expect while journeying in such regions, and was not made so terribly uncomfortable as Colonel Hamilton was, by not finding all the luxuries of a Parisian hotel in a little backwoods settlement on the banks of the Wabash. If elated by some geological good luck in groping about in a dirty coal mine, or in grubbing after fossils and shells in a mud hole, he comes up with a smiling but smutty face, and very dirty hands, and remarks that the appearance of the country is quite pleasant, and the people are really very civil. He sometimes met with amusing adventures, which he describes in a very grave and matter-of-fact way, with but little perception of the ludicrous, but with a very conscientious desire to tell the exact truth, and leave the facts to make their own impression. When on board a large and luxuriously appointed steamboat, or staying in a fashionable hotel, his English fastidiousness occasionally peeps out;

he was annoyed because the eye-glass that he wore attracted the curiosity of some of the deck passengers, and some women in the cabin pestered his wife by coolly taking her work out of her hands in order to examine it, and then handing it back with a compliment;—little freedoms which, to be sure, manifested rather more simplicity of character than refinement of manners. But the following passage shows that he was able “to rough it” very good humoredly when circumstances required.

“From Memphis we sailed in a smaller steamer for 170 miles, first between the States of Tennessee and Arkansas, and then between Tennessee and Missouri, and arrived very late at night at New Madrid, a small village on the western bank of the river, where I intended to stay and make geological observations on the region shaken by the great earthquake of 1811–12. So many of our American friends had tried to dissuade us from sojourning in so rude a place, that we were prepared for the worst. In the wharf-boat, at least, I expected to find a bed for the first night, and proposed to seek accommodation elsewhere the next day; but, to my dismay, the keeper of this floating tavern told me, when I landed, that he had just come there, had nothing as yet ‘fixed,’ and could not receive us. I also learnt that the only inn in New Madrid had been given up for want of custom. Leaving, therefore, my wife sitting by the stove in the wharf-boat, and taking a negro as my guide, I began to pace the dark and silent streets. First I applied in vain for admittance at the old tavern, then to a storekeeper in the neighborhood, who informed me that a German baker, near the river, sometimes took in lodgers. I next roused this man and his wife from their slumbers; their only spare room was occupied, but they asked their lodger if he would give it up to us. No sum of money would have bribed him to comply, as I was satisfied when I knew him better, but his good nature led him at once to assent cheerfully. We were soon shown into the apartment, a kind of scullery, with a mattress on the floor, on which we slept, and did not make our appearance next morning till half-past eight o’clock. We then apologized, fearing we had kept them waiting for breakfast. They said, good humoredly, they had indeed waited from six o’clock, and it was now near their dinner time! The young German, originally from near Strasburg, a man of simple manners, regarded himself as belonging to a different station in society, and would have acted as waiter till we had finished our repast, had not his wife, a native-born American, from the State of Indiana, insisted on his sitting down to table. They were so poor, that they had

no servants, not even a negro boy or girl, and two children to look after. The fare was of the humblest kind, bread of Indian corn, bacon, and thick coffee. Some of the indispensable articles of the breakfast table equipage had been purchased, as we afterward discovered, expressly for our use that morning. The lodger, 'Uncle John,' was an old bachelor in easy circumstances, fond of fishing, who had come here to indulge in that sport. He was an old pilot, who had visited half the ports in the Mediterranean, as well as Great Britain, and was quite a character. He could tell many a good story of his adventures, and, like many natives of Louisiana, could bear to be contradicted on any point rather than hear the healthiness of New Orleans called in question. His manners, and those of our host and hostess toward each other and to us, were very polite, and never approached undue familiarity. Uncle John assured me that the Mississippi is now flowing where New Madrid stood in 1811, and that the old grave-yard had travelled over from the State of Missouri into Kentucky."

In this comfortless place Sir Charles spent two days, occupied in examining the singular marks which the earthquake had left upon the face of the country. He rode out to the borders of "the sunk country," as it is called, a tract of land fifty or sixty miles long and four or five broad, the whole of which was depressed from ten to twenty, and even thirty, feet by this terrific convulsion. The little scene which he describes on his return shows the good sense and good feeling with which his companion and himself conformed to the exigencies of their novel situation.

"When I took back my horse to its owner in New Madrid, I received a pressing invitation to exchange our present homely quarters for her comfortable house. Some of the other principal merchants made us hospitable offers of the same kind, which were exceedingly tempting. We thought it right, however, to decline them all, as we might have hurt the feelings of our German host and his wife, who, in their anxiety to accommodate us, had purchased several additional household articles. Among these was a table-cloth, and, when I entered the house, I was amused at the occupations of my wife and her companion. The baker's lady had accepted the offer of her guest to hem the new table-cloth, in which task she was busily engaged; while the settler in the backwoods, having discovered that my wife had brought from New Orleans a worked collar of the latest Parisian fashion, had asked leave to copy it, and was intent on cutting

out the shape, thus qualifying herself to outdo all the 'fashionists' of the sunk country."

What artificial beings refined and cultivated people are ! The luxurious furniture of our drawing-rooms, Axminster carpets, figured satin couches, cut-glass chandeliers, and "very old chairs" lose the gloss of novelty after we have had them a week, and then no more give pleasure to the occupants than the barren rooms and hard seats of this humble cabin gave trouble or chagrin to the worthy German baker and his spouse. Habit dulls, and even destroys, our perception both of luxury and its opposite. What actually conduces to bodily ease or mental cultivation, indeed, such as well-warmed apartments, soft seats, books, and music, is a more permanent source of pleasure ; but if luxury was restricted to such limits, how much expense would be pared off, how much needless decoration would be rejected. Sir Charles Lyell probably slept as well on the mattress in the scullery as he ever did in his life ; and within a week, while living in a large hotel, he probably fretted because the linen on his bed was not as carefully smoothed as it might be. Lady Lyell assisting the baker's wife to hem the new tablecloth, was certainly amused and delighted by the novelty of the situation ; yet only a week before, she had been seriously annoyed because the impertinent inmates of a magnificently furnished saloon in a great steamer took her work out of her hands to examine it for a moment.

We beg pardon of our good-natured and sensible travellers for using their names in the examples that were chosen only to illustrate a general observation on the artificialness of the ordinary life of well-bred people. Far from intimating that their conduct or feelings under the circumstances were ill-judged or unusual, we began our moralizing thus unseasonably with a purpose of remarking on a peculiarity of our countrymen in this respect, which frequently attracted Sir Charles's notice, and certainly exposes them to just censure and ridicule. He was not more amused to find his wife engaged in hemming a tablecloth than to see the mistress of this humble cabin copying the "latest Parisian fashion" of a worked collar. He might also have found the daughters of a plain New England farmer strumming on a piano in "the best

room" of their father's house, though it may have had only a rag-carpet on the floor. Such incongruities quickly catch the eye of a foreigner, but create no surprise here, for they are a natural consequence of our republican institutions.

"We remarked in some of the country towns of Massachusetts, where the income of the family was very moderate, that the young ladies indulged in extravagant dressing — £40, for example, being paid for a shawl in one instance. Some of the richer class, who had returned from passing a year or two in Germany and England, had been much struck with the economical habits, in dress and in the luxuries of the table, of persons in easy circumstances there, and the example had not been lost on them.

"During our stay in the White Mountains, we were dining one day at the ordinary of the Franconia hotel, when a lawyer from Massachusetts pointed out to me 'a lady' sitting opposite to us, whom he recognized as the chambermaid of an inn in the State of Maine, and he supposed 'that her companion with whom she was talking might belong to the same station.' I asked if he thought the waiters, who were as respectful to these guests as to us, were aware of their true position in society. 'Probably they are so,' he replied; 'and, moreover, as the season is now almost over in these mountains, I presume that these gentlemen, who must have saved money here, will very soon indulge in some similar recreation, and make some excursion themselves.' He then entered into conversation with the two ladies on a variety of topics, for the sake of drawing them out, treating them quite as equals; and certainly succeeded in proving to me that they had been well taught at school, had read good books, and could enjoy a tour and admire scenery as well as ourselves. 'It is no small gratification to them,' said he, 'to sit on terms of equality with the silver fork gentry, dressed in their best clothes, as if they were in an orthodox meeting-house.' I complimented him on carrying out in practice the American theory of social equality. As he had strong anti-slavery feelings, and was somewhat of an abolitionist, he said, 'Yes, but you must not forget they have no dash of negro blood in their veins.' I remarked, that I had always inferred from the books of English travellers in the United States, that domestic service was held as somewhat of a degradation in New England. 'I remember the time,' he answered, 'when such an idea was never entertained by any one here; but servants formerly used to live with their master and mistress, and have their meals at the same table. Of late years, the custom of boarding separately has gained ground, and work

in factories is now preferred. These are so managed, that the daughters of farmers, and sometimes of our ministers, look upon them as most respectable places, where in three or four years they may earn a small sum toward their dowry, or which may help to pay off a mortgage or family debt.' "

Human nature is too strong for the theorists upon democracy and social equality. In vain do we have it constantly dinned in our ears, by the eager politicians and the newspapers, that all men are equal, and all women too; every class in the community is constantly striving to rise, or to establish an inequality in its own favor. And it is a little curious, that this continued struggle tends strongly to the growth and diffusion of luxury; for the distinction that is sought is not that which consists merely in a larger command of the means of actual enjoyment, but in the outward appearances which betoken social importance, and dazzle, if not convince, our neighbors. The wealthy and the educated try all expedients to draw a visible line of demarcation between the region in which they move and the sphere of their less fortunate rivals; compelled to meet them on terms of perfect equality in hotels and public conveyances, where the *millionaire* must resign the most comfortable seat to a washerwoman, and must sit at table to-day with the man who was his waiter yesterday, they strive to indemnify themselves in their own houses, by adopting a style of furniture and ornament which the generality cannot match. But ambitious persons, with moderate or small means, but an inventive genius, are not to be thus easily distanced; proud of having asserted their equality in the rail-car and on the steamboat, where perhaps they were impertinent and intrusive only to mark their opinion that they were "as good as any body," they also strain their incomes to copy with a ludicrous fidelity all the appointments and fashions of the rich. They fill their rooms and cover their persons with sham articles of "Brummagem" manufacture, — cheap, but costly in appearance. The farmer's daughter must have a tuneless but shining piano in the parlor, the seamstress must wear a dashing gold chain, if not a gold watch at the end of it, and the laborer's wife must have a worked collar of "the latest Parisian fashion." The "three dollar monthly magazines," which report these latest fashions, illustrated by gaudily

colored plates, have an enormous circulation among the young women of mechanics' families and the girls who work in factories; a copy always lies on "the centre table" in the best room, by the side of Longfellow's Poems.

And they ape the customs, as well as the dress and furniture, of the rich, even in the most trifling particulars. Sir Charles Lyell, when in a farmer's house, observed with some surprise that the chairs, instead of standing as if they were meant to be used, were turned sidewise, and placed two and two, facing each other, before the windows; he innocently notices it as a rather singular American custom. Bless his simplicity! A *custom*, forsooth! Why, three years ago, he could not have found two chairs thus placed in all New England; about that time, two or three wealthy people in some of our great cities hit upon the bright thought of making this disarrangement of their furniture, as a mode of distinguishing themselves from their neighbors, and of intimating that they had more chairs than they needed to use; and "the fashion" spread throughout the country quicker than the cholera. It is a melancholy fact, that the dominion of the goddess of Fashion is more absolute and universal throughout the country towns, as well as the cities, of America than it is in London or Paris.

In despair at thus seeing even the minutiae of their dress, manners, and household arrangements either successfully copied or parodied by "the masses," the wealthy and refined classes rack their brains to invent some *style* that cannot be imitated. A happy thought occurred to them some ten years since. 'What is new,' they argued, 'however costly and useless, can and will be copied; but what is ancient can only be forged, and, fortunately, the stock of old furniture that has survived the dilapidations of time and the love of change is very limited. We *can* be exclusive by filling our houses with old chairs, claw-footed stands, and worm-eaten tables. Besides, this fashion will be really respectable; historical associations cluster around these venerable relics, and people are at liberty to imagine that they have been in "the family" for several generations.' This plan was really ingenious, and it had the success that it deserved. Old furniture immediately rose to an unconscionable price, and fashionable drawing-rooms were immediately filled with tables

at which the Pilgrim Fathers had sat, and chairs "that came over in the *Mayflower*." Sundry old farmers' wives were delighted to find that they could exchange the ancient, inconvenient, and dilapidated articles, which had actually been in *their* families a century or two, for new and comfortable furniture, and receive something handsome to boot; and they always wisely made the change when their daughters, who were quicker than their elders in ascertaining the mutations of fashion, would let them. But Yankee cabinet-makers are ingenious, and the market was soon filled with modern antiques which no mortal could distinguish from those manufactured by the Puritans. And now, every mechanic's wife has her parlor filled with these detestable inventions; to be sure, their inconvenience in use is no concern to her, as the parlor is carefully shut up three hundred and sixty days in the year, and the family eat and live in the kitchen. But in the drawing-rooms of the opulent, the annoyance is chronic; no two articles being alike, they do not admit of symmetrical arrangement, but are clustered together in "elegant confusion," — another fashion that is faithfully copied by the million. Thus a visitor cannot cross the room without imminent peril to his limbs, nor even sit down in comfort on an awkward, straight-backed chair, which, on homœopathic principles, would be a sure cure for the lumbago.

One other attempt of the upper classes to distinguish themselves from the multitude was of a more rational character. Gold watches and chains, with most articles of jewelry, having become alarmingly common, very good imitations of them being worn even by female domestics, the latest fashion in good society is to discard them altogether, and to appear even in full dress without these costly baubles. This is the most sensible change of fashion that we ever heard of; and in view of the immense evil caused by a diffusion of the taste for expensive luxuries among people of moderate means, we earnestly hope the custom may be a permanent one. Truly refined and cultivated persons of fortune, of whom New England can boast a large number, can hardly do more good to the community, even by diffusing the means of education, than by setting the example, which will certainly be followed, of rigid simplicity in dress and the style of living. We are not recommending asceticism or cynicism; the pride of Diogenes

is even more irrational and absurd than the pride of Plato. All that really conduces to personal comfort and convenience, or to mental enjoyment and cultivation, can be had without keeping up this silly strife with the multitude in respect to the external tokens of prosperity and social distinction. The pleasure afforded by mere luxury and ostentation is very short-lived, and the diffusion of a taste for it in the community at large is an incalculable evil. Already it is the most threatening ulcer in the social condition of our countrymen. Sir Charles Lyell, accustomed to the wealthiest and most aristocratic society in Europe — that of the upper classes in London — saw with surprise the richly furnished apartments and costly style of living of the opulent here in New England. It is notorious that not only merchants, but professional men, small shopkeepers, and even mechanics, frequently, we had almost said usually, live beyond their means; and hence, with all our national prosperity, bankruptcy is more common in the United States than in any country in Europe. Yet it is not because the people have a taste for luxuries, or are disposed to be indolent and fond of pleasure; on the contrary, they strive too hard and labor too anxiously to get rich. The husband and the father of the family exhausts his energies both of body and mind in the daily routine of toil, and submits even to severe privations, in order that his wife and daughters may ape the manners, the costume, and the household arrangements of those who are more fortunate than himself; and the objects of his emulation, instead of being grateful to the zealous copyists of their example, strive with equal ardor to preserve the distance between them undiminished, and cruelly abandon the fashionable article as soon as it is successfully and generally imitated. Yet Messieurs the Parisian democrats and socialists talk about the natural equality of the human race, and the injustice and artificialness of all social distinctions! Why, in this American democracy, which is now three-quarters of a century old, in this society where the law recognizes no difference of rank, a society which legally has no top and no bottom, all the world, whether rich or poor, with a manful disregard of common consistency, bravely eating their own democratic words, are actively endeavoring to create *inequality*, to establish and jealously to preserve their own rank in the teeth of the law, and to sur-

mount the social barrier which their neighbors have succeeded in setting up.

“Naturam expelles furcâ, tamen usque recurret.”

But we must return to our traveller, whose book is so rich in suggestive matter, that almost every page of it furnishes a text for a sermon as long as the one we have just preached. His observations on the geology, and the character and customs of the people of New England, were made during an excursion to the White Hills in New Hampshire, two journeys to Plymouth and New Haven, and a residence of some months in Boston. On Sundays, he regularly attended divine service, visiting the churches of as many different denominations as possible, and thus observing incidentally how the peculiarities of our countrymen are manifested in their religious forms, tenets, and habits ; — a mode of observation, we may remark, which gives a better insight than any other into the national character, and is particularly applicable and fruitful in the United States. He remarks, what an American would hardly have thought of noticing, so perfectly is religious toleration established here, that “the late governor of the State [of Maine] was a Unitarian ; and, as if to prove the perfect toleration of churches the most opposed to each other, they have recently had a Roman Catholic governor.” On a subsequent occasion, he mentions another curious fact to illustrate the same thing.

“ Travelling as I did in 1845 – 6, through a large part of the Union, immediately after the close of the protracted contest for the Presidency, when the votes in favor of Mr. Clay and Mr. Polk had been nearly balanced, I was surprised to find in the north, south, and west, how few of the Americans with whom I conversed as travelling companions could tell me to what denomination of Christians these two gentlemen belonged. I at length ascertained that one of them was an Episcopalian, and the other a Presbyterian. This ignorance could by no means be set down to indifferentism. Had one of the candidates been a man of immoral character, it would have materially affected his chance of success, or probably if he had been suspected of indifference about religion, and not a few of the politicians whom I questioned were strongly imbued with sectarian feelings ; but it was clear that in the choice of a first magistrate their minds had been wholly occupied with other considerations, and the separation of religion

and politics, though far from being as complete as might be wished, is certainly one of the healthy features of the working of the American institutions."

Going to a Unitarian church in Portland, he was naturally surprised to see "a gilt cross placed over the altar," as he remembered that our Puritan ancestors held this sign in great detestation, obstinately persisting in their view of it as a symbol only of Popery, and not of the affecting event to which it owes its whole significance, and which is so intimately connected with the doctrines of the atonement and imputed righteousness, that it would seem the cross ought to be held in as great favor by Calvinists as by Papists. But the casual association, as often happens, has nearly destroyed the natural and legitimate one, and the crucifix is regarded by more than half the Protestant world with as much horror as the fetish of the African savage. But reason is at last beginning to dispel this silly and inconsistent prejudice; and if Sir Charles Lyell had gone a little farther into Maine, he might have found the once hated symbol frequently introduced among the rich decorations of the newly finished chapel of an orthodox college.

"During my first visit to the New England States, I was greatly at a loss to comprehend by what means so large a population had been brought to unite great earnestness of religious feeling with so much real toleration. In seeking for the cause, we must go farther back than the common schools, or at least the present improved state of popular education; for we are still met with the question, How could such schools be maintained by the State, or by compulsory assessments, on so liberal a footing, in spite of the fanaticism and sectarian prejudices of the vulgar? When we call to mind the religious enthusiasm of the early Puritans, and how at first they merely exchanged a servile obedience to tradition, and the authority of the Church, for an equally blind scripturalism, or implicit faith in the letter of every part of the Bible, acting as if they believed that God, by some miraculous process, had dictated all the Hebrew words of the Old, and all the Greek of the New Testament; nay, the illiterate among them cherishing the same superstitious veneration for every syllable of the English translation — how these religionists, who did not hesitate to condemn several citizens to be publicly whipped for denying that the Jewish code was obligatory on Christians as a rule of life, and who were fully persuaded that they alone were the chosen people of God, should bequeath to their immediate

posterity such a philosophical spirit as must precede the organization by the whole people of a system of secular education acceptable to all, and accompanied by the social and political equality of religious sects such as no other civilized community has yet achieved—this certainly is a problem well worthy of the study of every reflecting mind. To attribute this national characteristic to the voluntary system would be an anachronism, as that is of comparatively modern date in New England; besides that the dependence of the ministers on their flocks, by transferring ecclesiastical power to the multitude, only gives to their bigotry, if they be ignorant, a more dangerous sway. So, also, of universal suffrage; by investing the million with political power, it renders the average amount of their enlightenment the measure of the liberty enjoyed by those who entertain religious opinions disapproved of by the majority. Of the natural effects of such power, and the homage paid to it by the higher classes, even where the political institutions are only partially democratic, we have abundant exemplification in Europe, where the educated of the laity and clergy, in spite of their comparative independence of the popular will, defer outwardly to many theological notions of the vulgar with which they have often no real sympathy.”

The feelings of the geologist peep out a little in this passage, though there is now, happily, but little occasion to manifest them; the literal interpretation of the first chapter of the book of Genesis has come to be regarded by nearly all educated Christians in the same light with the Papal opposition to the doctrine that the earth revolves round the sun. Yet we fear that the controversy, though it has at length ceased, has done harm that can never be repaired; it has left upon the minds of those who first proclaimed the now unquestioned fact of the vast antiquity of the earth's crust, and who were so unreasonably assailed for it, a feeling of bitterness and hostility against those who retain a degree of reverence for the Scriptures which some are pleased to call scripturalism, and others bibliolatry. There are bigots and fanatics in science as well as in religion; but wisdom is justified of her children in both.

The spirit of toleration that now reigns in New England Sir Charles finally ascribes to “the reaction against the extreme Calvinism of the church first established in this part of America, a movement which has had a powerful tendency to subdue and mitigate sectarian bitterness.” We are not sure

that this cause is strong enough to account for the jealous care with which our common schools have always been guarded against sectarian influences. These institutions being eminently popular, and being placed entirely under the direction of all the inhabitants of each township, every particular in their management being determined by universal suffrage, the attempt of any one denomination to introduce their peculiar tenets of faith into the system of instruction was met by the systematic and united opposition of the other sects ; and from a very early day, there was so much division of religious opinion in our towns, even in the bosom of the Calvinistic church itself, that common schools could never have been established, except upon the neutral ground that the instruction given in them should be exclusively secular. The Puritan clergy, also, were jealous of any attempt made to teach religion from any tribunal except the pulpit ; they preferred not to delegate the spiritual guidance of their flocks to any one, and would hardly permit the village pedagogue to teach his pupils even the Westminster Catechism, lest he should corrupt by his explanations the purity of the faith. Popular education has not been sacrificed to sectarian bigotry here, as it has been in England, because the administration of civil affairs here is not centralized ; otherwise, the dominant sect in the legislature would have erected its banner in every district school in New England. This is one of the evils which we have escaped through the resolute independence of those fierce little democracies, our country towns,

“Where none will kneel, save when to Heaven they pray,
Nor even then, unless in their own way.”

Our readers must not suppose, that amid all these disquisitions on men and manners, Sir Charles Lyell ever loses sight of the scientific objects of his journey. He turns the conversation from sects to sea-serpents, and from grammar schools to glacial polishings, very easily and without apology for abruptness. “Everywhere around Portsmouth,” to his great delight, he saw the polished surfaces of the rocks and the long straight furrows or grooves in them, which he supposes to have been imprinted by icebergs on the ancient floor of the ocean. At this place, also, through the kindness of Mr. John L. Hayes, who obtained the original accounts from some

ancient whalemén, he picked up some amazingly tough fish stories, about dead whales frozen into the middle of icebergs, and drifting along with them, the animal remains being some 300 feet above the level of the sea. How these huge bodies could be raised to so great a height is a question which at first it does not seem easy to answer; but the problem in fact is not a difficult one. These ice-mountains are submerged for more than seven-eighths of their whole mass, the body of the animal at first, of course, being frozen into the part under water; and then, the inferior portion of the ice melting away unequally, the centre of gravity is changed, the huge mass is capsized, and the unfortunate whale obtains an astonishing elevation above his natural element. Grounded icebergs incorporate large rocks into themselves, and then, getting afloat, bear them off, are capsized so as to bring their burden upon the upper surface, and may then transport thousands of tons of rock and gravel to a vast distance from their original site. When they reach a warmer climate, they melt and strew their burden over the ocean floor. Through the alternate subsidence and elevation of various parts of the earth's surface, the depths of ocean may afterwards become dry land, which will then appear covered with what the geologists call *drift* and *boulders*. He who thinks this is a rather far-fetched and complex hypothesis to account for the presence of large loose rocks and beds of gravel in particular localities, is requested to invent a better one;—and if he fails to comply with this request, according to the logic of the geologists, he is bound to accept their theory as proved, for they have no other argument to offer in its favor. A more sensible answer, in our humble opinion, would be to say, that neither party knows any thing about it.

The class of geologists, of which Sir Charles Lyell is the head, is unwilling to accept any phenomena as indications or relics of the *original* state of the earth's surface, before the long succession of terrestrial changes by secondary causes began. They maintain that this succession, *a parte ante*, is absolutely interminable. They will not acknowledge that any thing ever *began to be*. When the question is propounded respecting any phenomenon on the earth's surface, 'How came it so?' they will not admit it to be a satisfactory answer to say, 'It was so created.' Now, when a stratum

of rock is found to contain organic remains, it is certainly reasonable to ask after its history ; it is a fair presumption that the animals and vegetables, the remains of which are now entombed in it, were *living* animals and vegetables at some time before they were thus entombed. We may fairly exert our ingenuity, then, in putting together a combination and succession of causes — causes which are now operating before our eyes — as will offer a possible, if not a plausible, explanation of the process by which these organisms were transferred to their rocky tomb. The best hypothesis that we can frame, however, even in this case, can be accepted only with a proviso ; it is good only till some inventive speculatist can hammer out a better and more plausible one. But when we come to the older and non-fossiliferous rocks, we demur to the formation of these fanciful histories, for the plain reason that we know of no substances which are more likely to be primitive than these rocks themselves, and there must be an end somewhere to a succession of causes. We dislike this scientific groping into primeval darkness. In such a medium, we can no longer see the distinguishing marks of truth and error ; one theory is just as good as another, on the same principle that “all cats in the dark are gray.” Many of the most recent speculations in geology are mere guess-work ; and the attractiveness of the science in a great measure depends on the wide range that it offers to the imagination, and the impossibility of disproving the many pleasant hypotheses that a lively fancy can weave.

A striking instance of this unwillingness to accept any state of things as primitive is afforded by the speculations in which our author indulges on the top of Mount Washington, as to the origin of the Alpine or Arctic vegetation that he found there. He puzzles himself in an attempt “to explain how an Arctic flora, consisting of plants specifically identical with those which now inhabit lands bordering the sea in the extreme north of America, Europe, and Asia, could get to the top of Mount Washington.” As many of the species are intolerant of heat and drought, they could not make their way thither over the intervening lowlands. But why not say that the same primitive cause placed them on the summit of Mount Washington which first disseminated them over the cold regions of Greenland and Labrador ? Why, because the *savans*

choose to assume, that the mountains are younger than the plants, and that each species of the latter must have had its origin in a single birthplace, whence it gradually spread, through the means of migration with which it was first endowed, to all spots fit for its habitation. Yet the same species of freshwater fish are found in different rivers, the head waters of which do not communicate with each other, and which empty into an ocean where these fish could not live. Animal species, therefore, cannot each be traced to one limited birthplace, or "specific centre;" and as animals certainly have greater freedom of migration than plants, it is very unlikely that each vegetable species acknowledges one common ancestor or original locality. Yet the theorists first assume that it is so, in order to create a difficulty, a *dignus vindice nodus*, and then, in order to knock down the ninepin which they have just set up, our geologist brings forward his favorite *deus ex machina*, and imagines that the seeds were transported from Greenland to the top of the White Hills by — "floating icebergs!" Certainly, these vast monsters of the deep are put upon very hard duty; they have to do all the dirty work of the geologists. After polishing and grooving all the rocks over half the northern hemisphere, after scattering boulders and distributing beds of gravel over an equal space, they must needs turn packhorses to carry about the seeds of plants. Does Sir Charles suppose, that they also carry living freshwater fish from the mouth of one river to that of another?

We gladly go back to the speculations of our traveller upon American politics and social life, in relation to which he has no favorite theory to defend, and therefore makes no drafts upon our credulity. His observations while in Boston are so good-natured and flattering, that our modesty prevents us from dwelling upon them; he must be indeed a spiteful critic, who will not put up his back and purr when stroked so gently, and we have already intimated an opinion that our author has much discrimination and good sense. One brief extract, however, from the portion of the book relating to the "specific centre" of the Yankees, whence they did not wait for "icebergs" to transport them to every region of the habitable globe, may be pardoned as an offering to the local pride of many of our readers.

"A huge fragment of granite, a boulder which lay sunk in the beach has always been traditionally declared to have been the exact spot which the feet of the Pilgrims first trod when they landed here; and part of this same rock still remains on the wharf, while another portion has been removed to the centre of the town, and inclosed within an iron railing, on which the names of forty-two of the Pilgrim Fathers are inscribed. They who cannot sympathize warmly with the New Englanders for cherishing these precious relics, are not to be envied, and it is a praiseworthy custom to celebrate an annual festival, not only here, but in places several thousand miles distant. Often at New Orleans, and in other remote parts of the Union, we hear of settlers from the North meeting on the 22d of December to commemorate the birthday of New England; and when they speak fondly of their native hills and valleys, and recall their early recollections, they are drawing closer the ties which bind together a variety of independent States into one great confederation.

"Colonel Perkins, of Boston, well known for his munificence, especially in founding the Asylum for the Blind, informed me, in 1846, that there was but one link wanting in the chain of personal communication between him and Peregrine White, the first white child born in Massachusetts, a few days after the Pilgrims landed. White lived to an advanced age, and was known to a man of the name of Cobb, whom Colonel Perkins visited, in 1807, with some friends who yet survive. Cobb died in 1808, the year after Colonel Perkins saw him. He was then blind; but his memory fresh for every thing which had happened in his manhood. He had served as a soldier at the taking of Louisburg in Cape Breton, in 1745, and remembered when there were many Indians near Plymouth. The inhabitants occasionally fired a cannon near the town to frighten them, and to this cannon the Indians gave the name of 'Old Speakum.'

"When we consider the grandeur of the results which have been realized in the interval of 225 years, since the Mayflower sailed into Plymouth harbor—how in that period a nation of twenty millions of souls has sprung into existence and peopled a vast continent, and covered it with cities, and churches, schools, colleges, and railroads, and filled its rivers and ports with steamboats and shipping—we regard the Pilgrim relics with that kind of veneration which trivial objects usually derive from high antiquity alone. For we measure time not by the number of arithmetical figures representing years or centuries, but by the importance of a long series of events, which strike the imagination."

We find a very amusing chapter upon the renowned sea-serpent, though it ends in a most provoking manner. After

bringing together an amount of testimony which seems to establish the veritable existence of this persecuted snake beyond a doubt, after declaring that the witnesses were unimpeachable and had good opportunities to observe, after even intimating that he was himself a believer, our author treacherously turns a sharp corner upon us, and labors to prove that this supposed mighty king of the snakes is nothing at all but a big shark. This is really too bad ; after requiring us to swallow all his tough stories about icebergs floating over the tops of the White Hills and planting flower gardens there, he cruelly refuses to believe the first article in a Yankee's creed, and maligns the innocent sea-serpent, who never did any harm to anybody, by maintaining that he is no better than a ravenous, man-eating shark. We fall back upon the evidence of Mr. Barry, Captain Lawson, Colonel Perkins, Captain McQuhae, and Bishop Pontoppidan, all good men and true, who could no more mistake a shark, when within a hundred feet of it, for a serpent, than they could metamorphose a cloud into a whale. Our author's whole theory depends upon an idle tale, that a dead shark being once thrown ashore at the Orkneys, some stupid Scotchman mistook him for a snake. Such a blunder was very likely to be committed in a country where the people believed Macpherson to be Ossian, and Lord Monboddo could not distinguish a man from a monkey.

Our traveller visited Washington while Congress was debating the Oregon question, and did not form a very favorable opinion either of the good taste or the oratorical ability of our national legislature.

“ It would be impossible to burlesque or caricature the ambitious style of certain members of Congress, especially some who have risen from humble stations, and whose schooling has been in the back-woods. A grave report, drawn up in the present session by a member for Illinois, as chairman of the Post-office Committee, may serve as an example. After speaking of the American republic as ‘ the infant Hercules,’ and the extension of their imperial dominion over the ‘ northern continent and oriental seas,’ he exclaims, ‘ the destiny of our nation has now become revealed, and great events, quickening in the womb of time, reflect their clearly-defined shadows into our very eye-balls.

“ ‘ Oh, why does a cold generation frigidly repel ambrosial gifts like these, or sacrilegiously hesitate to embrace their glowing and resplendent fate ?

“‘Must this backward pull of the government never cease, and the nation tug forever beneath a dead weight, which trips its heels at every stride?’”

“One day, as we were walking down Pennsylvania Avenue with Mr. Winthrop, we met a young negro woman, who came up to him with a countenance full of pleasure, saying it was several years since she had seen him, and greeting him with such an affectionate warmth of expression, that I began to contrast the stiffness and coldness of the Anglo-Saxon manners with the genial flow of feeling of this Southern race. My companion explained to me, that she was a very intelligent girl, and was grateful to him for an act of kindness he had once had an opportunity of showing her. I afterward learnt, from some other friends to whom I told this anecdote, that, three years before, Mr. Winthrop and a brother member of Congress from the North had been lodging in the house of this girl's mistress, and hearing that she was sentenced to be whipped for some offence, had both of them protested they would instantly quit the house if the mistress persevered. She had yielded, and at length confessed that she had been giving way to a momentary fit of temper.”

While visiting the rice plantations on the coast of Georgia, Sir Charles made some interesting observations on the phenomena which indicate a change in the relative level of land and sea. He saw the buried stumps of cypresses and pines in the salt marshes, still maintaining their original upright position in a locality where they could not exist at the present day, as the salt water is fatal to them. These stumps were observed by Bartram, the botanist, as far back as 1792; and he drew the correct inference from them, that the salt marshes must have been formerly high swamps of firm land, supporting forests of cypress, magnolia, and oak, which were subsequently depressed below the level of the sea. There the upper portion of the trees rotted away, while layers of sand were accumulated upon their stumps, till the land again appeared above the waters, and another growth of vegetation was established over the relics of the former one. Sir Charles Lyell subsequently examined a curious bluff at Port Hudson, on the Mississippi river, where *two* strata of buried forest are found, one over the other, a bed of clay twelve feet thick separating them, and the upper layer bearing another stratum of clay fifty feet in thickness. Above the whole is found more than twenty feet of sand, in the lower portion of which

are pebbles derived from ancient rocks. Here, then, the land must have risen and sunk alternately for a great height; and our author,—in conformity with his general theory, that such changes take place very gradually, so as to require an immense interval of years for their completion,—argues that “the depression must have taken place so slowly as to allow the river to raise the surface by sedimentary deposition continually, and never permit the sea to encroach and cover the area.” A sudden depression of only twelve feet, he says, would submerge the whole delta of the Mississippi; while the land might sink very gradually for 150 feet without causing an inundation from the Gulf of Mexico, if the fluvial deposit of mud and sand had time to fill up the space as fast as it was left vacant.

But this reasoning is shown to be quite inconclusive by his own observations at New Madrid, where a *limited tract* of country was depressed some twenty feet in less than three months. In some of the swamps in this “sunk country,” the trees, killed by the shock, have decayed nearly down to their roots; and our author himself observes, that “should the turbid waters of the Mississippi overflow that region, and deposit their sediment on such stumps, [which would bury them to a considerable depth in a few years,] they would present to the geologist a precise counterpart of the buried stools of trees with their roots, before described as occurring at the bottom of the bluff at Port Hudson.” What becomes of his argument, then, to prove that a vast period of time was necessary to effect the changes that are chronicled in that bluff! The land for twenty or thirty miles around might have been depressed by an earthquake in a single night, and the consequence would be, not an inundation from the Gulf, but the formation of a freshwater lake, in which the Mississippi would very soon deposit sediment twenty feet thick. Then another earthquake might heave up the bottom of the lake many feet above the waters; and thus all the changes might take place within a comparatively brief period, instead of requiring those millions of years which Sir Charles Lyell loves to contemplate.

But we must turn from earthquakes to alligators, as nothing comes amiss to these omnivorous *savans* in matters of science, and they make very sudden transitions. Our author

gives a very instructive account of these curious creatures, (the alligators, not the *savans*,) and fully confirms Bartram's account of the manner in which they build their nests.

"They resemble haycocks, about four feet high, and five feet in diameter at their bases, being constructed with mud, grass, and herbage. First they deposit one layer of eggs on a floor of mortar, and having covered this with a second stratum of mud and herbage eight inches thick, lay another set of eggs upon that, and so on to the top, there being commonly from one hundred to two hundred eggs in a nest. With their tails they then beat down round the nest the dense grass and reeds, five feet high, to prevent the approach of unseen enemies. The female watches her eggs until they are all hatched by the heat of the sun, and then takes her brood under her care, defending them, and providing for their subsistence. Dr. Luzenberger, of New Orleans, told me that he once packed up one of these nests, with the eggs, in a box for the Museum of St. Petersburg, but was recommended, before he closed it, to see that there was no danger of any of the eggs being hatched on the voyage. On opening one, a young alligator walked out, and was soon after followed by all the rest, about a hundred, which he fed in his house, where they went up and down the stairs, whining and barking like young puppies. They ate voraciously, yet their growth was so slow, as to confirm him in the common opinion, that individuals which have attained the largest size are of very great age; though whether they live for three centuries, as some pretend, must be decided by future observations.

"Mr. Couper told me that, in the summer of 1845, he saw a shoal of porpoises coming up to that part of the Altamaha where the fresh and salt water meet, a space about a mile in length, the favorite fishing ground of the alligators, where there is brackish water, which shifts its place according to the varying strength of the river and the tide. Here were seen about fifty alligators, each with head and neck raised above water, looking down the stream at their enemies, before whom they had fled, terror-stricken, and expecting an attack. The porpoises, no more than a dozen in number, moved on in two ranks, and were evidently complete masters of the field. So powerful, indeed, are they, that they have been known to chase a large alligator to the bank, and, putting their snouts under his belly, toss him ashore."

Some curious experiments by Dr. Le Conte upon these animals are referred to, the object being to throw light on the philosophy of the nervous system. A young alligator being

decapitated, "the jaws of the detached head still snapped at any thing which touched the tongue or the lining membrane of the mouth." The trunk remained in a state of torpor, if untouched ; but when pricked or pinched, the animal would scratch the spot with one foot or another, according to the side that was touched. "If touched below the posterior extremity on the thick end of the tail, he would slowly and deliberately draw up the hind foot and scratch the part, and use considerable force in pushing aside the offending object." The experiments were repeated many times, and were always followed by the same results. Dr. Le Conte's inference is, that while in man volition is confined to the brain, in animals it must extend over the whole spinal cord. It seems a more proper conclusion, however, that the movements are performed without any volition, through the reflex action of the nerves ; and as they are perfectly similar to those which are usually ascribed to instinct in the lower animals, and which could not be effected by man except through the action of reason, it appears fair to conclude that all the phenomena of instinct may be manifested without consciousness or volition.

Our traveller's observations on the subject of slavery and the capabilities of the negro race are very instructive and trustworthy, as he seems to approach the topic without prejudice or fanaticism, and to record what he saw and heard very faithfully. While he thinks that the difficulties in the way of universal emancipation are so formidable that the experiment hardly ought to be thought of, he bears full testimony to the depressing effect of the institution on the prosperity of the States where it exists, and to the capacity of the negroes for improvement when they are allowed to mingle freely with the whites. The condition of the slaves he studied carefully, and speaks in strong terms of the uniform kindness with which they are treated by their masters, of the full provision made for their bodily comfort, and of their contentment and cheerfulness, together with frequent instances of strong personal attachment to their owners. He passed a fortnight with Mr. H. Couper, on the extensive rice plantation of the latter, an estate situated on the banks of the Altamaha in Georgia, tilled by a gang of 500 negroes ; and he gives a minute account of what he witnessed while there, as a specimen of the manner in which large slave plantations at the

South are managed. At this place, he says, he had frequent opportunities of talking with the slaves alone, and of seeing them at work. To the possible objection, that this was too favorable a specimen of slavery, he answers, that he was led to make the visit by scientific objects that had no connection with the peculiar institutions of the South ; that this was the case with every other plantation that he visited ; and that he can but relate what he saw and heard, without bias or reserve.

“ There are 500 negroes on the Hopeton estate, a great many of whom are children, and some old and superannuated. The latter class, who would be supported in a poor-house in England, enjoy here, to the end of their days, the society of their neighbors and kinsfolk, and live at large in separate houses assigned to them. The children have no regular work to do till they are ten or twelve years old. We see that some of them, at this season, are set to pick up dead leaves from the paths, others to attend the babies. When the mothers are at work, the young children are looked after by an old negress, called Mom Diana. Although very ugly as babies, they have such bright, happy faces when three or four years old, and from that age to ten or twelve have such frank and confiding manners, as to be very engaging. Whenever we met them, they held out their hands to us to shake, and when my wife caressed them, she was often asked by some of the ladies, whether she would not like to bring up one of the girls to love her, and wait upon her. The parents indulge their own fancies in naming their children, and display a singular taste ; for one is called January, another April, a third Monday, and a fourth Hard Times. The fisherman on the estate rejoices in the appellation of ‘ Old Bacchus.’ Quash is the name of the favorite preacher, and Bulally the African name of another negro.

“ The out-door laborers have separate houses provided for them ; even the domestic servants, except a few who are nurses to the white children, live apart from the great house — an arrangement not always convenient for the masters, as there is no one to answer a bell after a certain hour. But if we place ourselves in the condition of the majority of the population, that of servants, we see at once how many advantages we should enjoy over the white race in the same rank of life in Europe. In the first place, all can marry ; and if a mistress should lay on any young woman here the injunction so common in English newspaper advertisements for a maid of all work, ‘ no followers allowed,’ it would be considered an extraordinary act of tyranny. The laborers begin work at six o’clock in the morning, have an hour’s rest at

nine for breakfast, and many have finished their assigned task by two o'clock, all of them by three o'clock. In summer they divide their work differently, going to bed in the middle of the day, then rising to finish their task, and afterward spending a great part of the night in chatting, merry-making, preaching, and psalm-singing. At Christmas they claim a week's holidays, when they hold a kind of Saturnalia, and the owners can get no work done. Although there is scarcely any drinking, the master rejoices when this season is well over without mischief.

"The negro mothers are often so ignorant or indolent, that they cannot be trusted to keep awake and administer medicine to their own children; so that the mistress has often to sit up all night with a sick negro child. In submitting to this, they are actuated by mixed motives — a feeling of kindness, and a fear of losing the services of the slave; but these attentions greatly attach the negroes to their owners. In general, they refuse to take medicine from any other hands but those of their master or mistress. The laborers are allowed Indian meal, rice, and milk, and occasionally pork and soup. As their rations are more than they can eat, they either return part of it to the overseer, who makes them an allowance of money for it at the end of the week, or they keep it to feed their fowls, which they usually sell, as well as their eggs, for cash, to buy molasses, tobacco, and other luxuries. When disposed to exert themselves, they get through the day's task in five hours, and then amuse themselves in fishing, and sell the fish they take; or some of them employ their spare time in making canoes out of large cypress trees, leave being readily granted them to remove such timber, as it aids the land-owner to clear the swamps. They sell the canoes for about four dollars, for their own profit."

In the relation of the slaves to the owners, he says, there is an hereditary regard and attachment more like that between lords and their retainers in the old feudal times, than to any thing in modern society. The slave identifies himself with his owner, whose prosperity increases his own self-importance. But the cares of the master are great, and his profits are precarious. The negroes require constant oversight, and allowance must be made for their dislike of continuous toil and their inferior motives for exertion. The care that must be taken of the aged, the sick, and the young children, is no slight portion of the owner's responsibility. To teach self-dependence to the slaves, Mr. Couper gave up a field to twenty-five picked men among them, to cultivate for

their own benefit, giving them half a day each week to work upon it. The first year, he managed it for them, compelling them to work during this half day ; and the profits at the end of the year, amounting to \$1,500, he divided equally among them. They were then left to themselves, they did nothing, and after the second year the field was not cultivated at all. This, however, as our author observes, was not a fair experiment, as they worked together on the principles of communism, a social theory which is as ill adapted to blacks as to whites. The traveller declares his opinion, that "*the dolce far niente* is doubtless the negro's paradise," from which nothing will rescue him but education and familiar intercourse with the whites. He thinks, however, that the slaves in this part of Georgia are not fair representatives of their class, as many of them are Africans by birth, or by the interval of only one generation ; they are herded together in large gangs, and therefore seldom come in contact with any whites but their master and their overseer. He evidently considers the final disappearance of the pure negro blood, and the substitution of a mixed race, which will be more capable of self-improvement and liberty, to be the inevitable, if not a desirable, end of the institution of slavery. Indeed, as it is certain that negroes are not imported into this country, and as amalgamation is constantly going on with rapid strides, this result must finally be produced, though many generations will be needed to effect it. Then, whether the hybrid race will gradually die out, as some physiologists maintain, or whether they can be kept in slavery, is a question that will answer itself.

To the evil results of slavery in an economical point of view, Sir Charles Lyell bears full and explicit testimony. At one time, he met a party of "movers," going to Texas with their slaves, one of whom confessed to him, "that he had been eaten out of Alabama by his negroes." At first, he was inclined to regard the rapid growth of New Orleans as a proof, that a large city may increase and flourish in spite of the numerous slaves that it contains ; but Mr. R. H. Wilde and Dr. Carpenter assured him, that the white race had been gradually superseding the negroes there.

"Ten years ago, say they, all the draymen of New Orleans, a numerous class, and the cabmen, were colored. Now, they

are nearly all white. The servants at the great hotels were formerly of the African, now they are of the European race. Nowhere is the jealousy felt by the Irish toward the negroes more apparent. According to some estimates, in a permanently resident population not much exceeding 80,000, there are only 22,000 colored persons, and a large proportion of these are free.

"That slave labor is more expensive than free, is an opinion which is certainly gaining ground in the higher parts of Alabama, and is now professed openly by some northerners who have settled there. One of them said to me, 'Half the population of the South is employed in seeing that the other half do their work, and they who do work, accomplish half what they might do under a better system.' 'We cannot,' said another, 'raise capital enough for new cotton factories, because all our savings go to buy negroes, or, as has lately happened, to feed them, when the crop is deficient.' A white bricklayer had lately gone from Tuscaloosa to serve an apprenticeship in his trade at Boston. He had been earning there $2\frac{1}{2}$ dollars a day, by laying 3000 bricks daily. A southern planter, who had previously been exceedingly boastful and proud of the strength of one of his negroes (who could, in fact, carry a much greater weight than this same white bricklayer,) was at first incredulous when he heard of this feat, for his pattern slave could not lay more than 1000 bricks a day.

"In several States, Virginia among others, I heard of strikes, where the white workmen bound themselves not to return to their employment until the master had discharged all his colored people. Such combinations will, no doubt, forward the substitution of white for negro labor, and may hasten the era of general emancipation. But if this measure be prematurely adopted, the negroes are a doomed race, and already their situation is most critical. I found a deep conviction prevailing in the minds of experienced slave-owners, of the injury which threatened them; and, more than once, in Kentucky and elsewhere, in answer to my suggestions, that the time for introducing free labor had come, they said, 'I think so; we must *get rid* of the negroes.' 'Do you not think,' said I, 'if you could send them all away, that some parts of the country would be depopulated, seeing how unhealthy the low grounds are for the whites?' 'Perhaps so,' replied one planter, 'but other regions would become more productive by way of compensation; the insalubrity of the Pontine marshes would be no excuse for negro slavery in Italy. All might end well,' he added, 'were it not that so many anti-slavery men in the North are as precipitate and impatient as if they believed, like the Millerites, that the world was coming to an end.'"

We take leave of our intelligent and fair-minded author with renewed thanks for the pleasure and instruction we have derived from his book. His scientific observations are full of information and entertainment, though we cannot always go along with him in his theories ; but the materials which he has brought together to assist one in forming a correct view of the condition and prospects of various portions of our country, and of the character of the several classes of its inhabitants, are more complete and trustworthy than can be found in any single book of travels in America with which we are acquainted.

ART. III. — *Memoirs of* REV. JOSEPH BUCKMINSTER, D. D.,
and of his Son, REV. JOSEPH STEVENS BUCKMINSTER.
 By ELIZA BUCKMINSTER LEE. Boston: Crosby and
 Nichols. 1849. 12mo. pp. 486.

THE preaching of the younger Buckminster formed an epoch in the history, not only of pulpit eloquence, but of literature and scholarship in New England. To call him a youthful prodigy gives no adequate idea either of his brilliant natural endowments, the thorough cultivation which they had received, or of the magnitude of the effects that he produced. Though he entered the pulpit when he was but a boy in years, he brought to his task a mind so fully informed with theological and general learning, a taste so pure and ripe, with a large command of all the requisites for natural eloquence, and so much earnestness and devotion to his sacred calling, that his youthfulness occasioned but little of the surprise and admiration with which he was welcomed. The generation who heard him at an age when they were capable of appreciating his powers, has mostly passed away ; but it is a matter of pride with the few representatives of it who remain to us, that they actually listened to the discourses which we can only read and try to form a faint conception of the effect which their delivery must have created. His intellect was so vigorous and mature from the very commencement of his public labors, and his acquisitions so much in advance of